

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

Claims 1-38 were pending in this application.¹ By the present response, claims 1, 4-8, 12-15, 17, 19 and 24 have been amended and claims 16 and 26 canceled. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 1-15, 17-25 and 27-38 remain pending and await further consideration on the merits.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 29-38 are allowed, and the indication that claims 14, 16, 17, 19 and 26 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form, in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Official Action. By this response, independent claim 1 now recites the subject matter of allowable claim 16 and independent claim 24 now recites the features of allowable claim 26. It is respectfully asserted that independent claims 1 and 24, in addition to independent claim 29, are now allowable.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,552,998 to Datta (hereafter "*Datta*") on the

¹ The Office Action Summary may be confusing in that claims 1-28 are indicated as pending and claims 29-38 are indicated as allowed. However, all claims 1-38 are in-fact pending.

grounds set forth in paragraph 2 of the Official Action. Claims 24 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,891,497 to Yoshimura (hereafter "*Yoshimura*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 3 of the Official Action. These rejections are obviated in view of the amendments herein by which the features of allowable claim 16 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. For at least this reason, this rejection should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Datta* on the grounds set forth in paragraph 5 of the Official Action. Claims 13, 15 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,270,520 to Barzilai et al. (hereafter "*Barzilai et al.*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 6 of the Official Action. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Datta* as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of *Grasso* on the grounds set forth in paragraph 9 of the Official Action. These rejections are obviated in view of the amendments herein by which the features of allowable claim 16 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. For at least this reason, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yoshimura* as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,518,850 to Grasso (hereafter "*Grasso*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 7 of the Official Action. Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yoshimura* as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of

Barzilai et al. on the grounds set forth in paragraph 8 of the Official Action. These rejections are obviated in view of the amendments herein by which the features of allowable claim 26 have been incorporated into independent claim 24. For at least this reason, this rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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